(b) The State administration of West Bengal took necessary administrative measures, including imposition of Section 144 Cr. PC in the disturbed areas. The Ministry of Home Affairs is regularly interacting with the Government of West Bengal with a view to ensuring the maintenance of law and order and peace in the area. Towards this end, and in pursuance of a demand from the GJM, and the request of the Government of West Bengal, the Central Government has also agreed to a process of Tripartite Talks between the GJM, Government of west Bengal and the Central Government. The first round of Tripartite Talks was held on 8 September, 2008.

Foreign contributions to religious institutions

1003. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether religious institutions are allowed to receive foreign contributions; and

(b) if so, what was the extent of receipt of contributions, religion-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the data available and compiled for the year 2006-07, the total amount of foreign contributions utilized for religious purposes during the year was Rs. 683.22 crore. Religion-wise break-up is not maintained.

Eruption of naxalite problem in Tamil Nadu

1004. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the naxalite problem erupted in the recent past for the first time in Theni District, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, what are all the extra steps taken to nip at the bud, so that it may not get aggravated later; and

(c) the measures taken by the Central Government instead of totally entrusting the issue to the State alone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) On 19th December, 2007, an exchange of fire between armed naxals and police took place in Theni district of Tamil Nadu. Though there was no casualty on either side, police recovered some arms and ammunitions.

(b) and (c) The State Government has been effectively dealing with naxal activities. The Central Government is supplementing the efforts and resources of State Governments by a variety of measures in the arena of security and development. These include assistance for capacity building of the State police and Intelligence agencies, sharing of intelligence and

bringing about inter-State coordination and assistance in development works through a range of schemes of various Ministries.

High level Committee on misuse of explosive materials

1005. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level Committee was appointed about a year back to examine all the aspects of the explosive problem in view of large scale misuse of explosive materials like ammonium nitrate by terrorists;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the composition of the Committee was degraded after the first sitting of the Committee and the Committee has not submitted its report as yet, even though the deadline was three months; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Cabinet Secretariat has constituted a Group under the Chairmanship of the Home Secretary on 01.11.2007 for the following purpose:

(i) To examine the existing system of issuance of licences for manufacture, supply and movement of explosive material.

(ii) To suggest adequate measures for proper monitoring as well as an effective mechanism with appropriate accountability at each including their manufacture, supply track of the transit and utilization at the end use in order to prevent these material from falling into undesirable hands.

(b) and (c) The Committee was not degraded but a sub-Committee was constituted to assist the main Committee. The Committee is expected to submit its report shortly.

Sending Kashmiri Pandits back to their places in Jammu and Kashmir

1006. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is serious enough to send back the Kashmiri Pandits to their places in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far and how many of them have gone back; and

(c) if not, what will be their ultimate fate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The policy of the Government is that the Kashmiri Pandits should return back once the conditions are conducive for their safe and dignified return. For facilitating the return of migrants who are willing to return to the Valley, the State Government have constructed 18 flats at Mattan and 100 one-room tenements at Kheer Bhavani as transit facilities for Kashmiri migrants. The Central Government has approved the construction of 200 flats at Sheikhpora in Budgam District in 2004.